



3 GILBERTS LANE
HIGHWORTH SN6 7FB
01793 762377

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**ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024**

Present:	
Councillors:	K Saunders (Chairman) G Dennis, I Durnin-Duffy, N Gardiner, L Gow, F Haines, J Murphy, G Olley and R Williams
Town Clerk:	D Rose
Assistant Town Clerk:	C Haines
Members of the Public:	3
Apologies:	None

		Action
60	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
61	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME & CORRESPONDENCE (Maximum 10 Minutes): None	
62	MINUTES OF THE MEETING: RESOLVED to confirm and sign the Minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 th February 2024.	
63	ALLOTMENT SITES: Letters were sent out to all tenants in January 2024, the summary is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 tenants surrendered their allotments• As of 13th February 2024 only 2 plots have not been paid for• Offers were made to those on the waiting list• 16 allotments have now been allocated to new tenants• 4 plots are available at Park Ave site, 1 at Swindon Road site and 3 at Old Golf Course site• The waiting list has now been cleared	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to available plots and no waiting list, it was agreed we would offer the remaining plots to current tenants if they wished to take on a second allotment • Going forward, we will continue to monitor all allotment plots and the inspections are scheduled for April and September 	
64	<p>SUMMER SKATE PARK EVENT:</p> <p>RESOLVED by Councillors to approve a skate park event in the summer to be funded through the youth budget. Voting was unanimous and the resolution was duly carried.</p>	DR
65	<p>WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY:</p> <p>Councillor G Olley attended a Local Nature Recovery System (LNRS) meeting at Wiltshire County Council (WCC) Trowbridge on Tuesday 20th February 2024. See notes below that are chronological as the meeting progressed and are in no priority order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is nationwide and emanates from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and is sponsored by Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). • Other significant actors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural England ○ The Forestry Commission ○ The Wildlife Trust • Funding for the project comes from the Bio-Diversity Net Gain Fund. • This area is as important for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee as it is for the Environment & Leisure Committee. • Developers are required to set aside 10% of the agreed area for habitat and be driven by LNRS. WCC have an aspiration to make that 20% • DEFRA owns the ground truth now situation with its “Magic Map” • LNRS is a GIS based nationwide mapping exercise that identifies a suggested improvement in biodiversity to be achieved through measures taken by a number of actors, amongst them, Local Councils and specifically Highworth Town Council (HTC). • Wiltshire has been divided into 11 areas of bio-diversity clusters and Highworth is in the “North”. • The system prioritises what habitat priorities should be the focus in all 11 areas, the area of concern for us is the agreed boundaries that fall within the aegis of HTC; though we should develop interest in neighbours as plans may have to be collaborative where habitat crosses boundaries. • As well as flora the system can identify priority species, but this information is held by the Biodiversity Record Centre and is commercial and may be purchased for £2500. • A new Locality Grant of £10,000 may be available from April 2024. • This system is due to go live in December 2024; Whilst I believe this system may be used now, the meeting chair seemed to think it would be used to influence the next iteration of NHP in 5 years’ time. <p>In summary:</p> <p>This GIS system should help HTC develop its own LNRS priorities and measures and create Local Nature Recovery areas. It will allow the accurate mapping of how habitats should be</p>	

	<p>extended and how they should be linked as well as prioritizing species stocks that need attention. In a nutshell it tells us which sites to act on as a priority and what typologies of flora and fauna should be developed.</p> <p>RESOLVED to confirm Councillor G Olley to be the representative for this group. Voting was unanimous, and G Olley was duly appointed.</p>	
66	<p>MEMBERS BUSINESS:</p> <p><u>Councillor L Gow:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attended the Twinning Association Annual General Meeting, it was good to see local people keen to reach out. The association could do with more members, any help would be gratefully received. b. Also attended the local climate talks, local residents asked to look at sustainable foods and what we could do locally. I have spoken to Weigh It Up and it was suggested perhaps a new garden project/programme in the Town Gardens, with fruit trees and raised beds. They would be happy to share expertise and enthusiasm this is to be a future agenda item. <p><u>Councillor G Olley:</u> gave an overview of the installation costs and annual profits for Westmill Solar Farm, the Town Clerk is to circulate this information.</p>	<p>DR</p> <p>DR</p>
Meeting Closed 20:16 PM		

Signed:

Date: